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YUKIHITO

BANANA ICE

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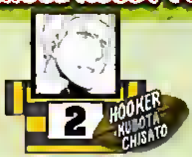
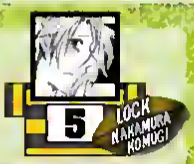
INTRODUCING THE POSITIONS OF THE MEISETSU TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

FORWARD

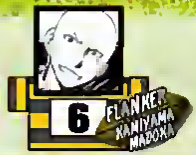
FRONT ROW

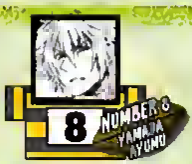


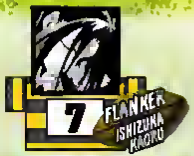
SECOND ROW



THIRD ROW



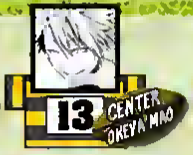




BACKS

HALF BACK

THREE-QUARTER BACK



FULL BACK

THE MEISETSU FIFTEEN STARTING LINE-UP

No.1 PROP
WATABE JUN
(SECOND YEAR)

No.2 HOOKER
KUBOTA CHISATO
(THIRD YEAR)

No.3 PROP
KOBAYASHI MIKIYO
(THIRD YEAR)

No.4 LOCK
HONTOKU MOE
(THIRD YEAR)

No.5 LOCK
NAKAMURA KOMUGI
(THIRD YEAR)

No.6 FLANKER
KAMIYAMA MADOKA
(SECOND YEAR)

No.7 FLANKER
ISHIZUKA KAORU
(SECOND YEAR)

No.8 NUMBER 8
YAMADA AYUMU
(THIRD YEAR)

No.9 SCRUM-HALF
NAGASE HIROMI
(THIRD YEAR)

No.10 FLY-HALF
SAKAI MAKOTO
(THIRD YEAR)

No.11 WINGER
EBINA YUI
(SECOND YEAR)

No.12 CENTER
CHIBA YUU
(FIRST YEAR)

No.13 CENTER
OKEYA MAO
(SECOND YEAR)

No.14 WINGER
SANO MEGUMI
(FIRST YEAR)

No.15 FULL BACK
UJIKAWA AKIRA
(FIRST YEAR)

ACME団 PRESENTS:

15: MEISETSU KOUGYOU KOUKOU RUGBY BU

BY NARUSE SHIKI

CHAPTER 14

RAWS: BANANA ICE OLJ

TRANSLATOR: BUTTON

PROOFER: REZONVILLE

TYPESETTER: KC

THE BALL FILLS THE NIGHT SKY WITH ITS SHINING SPINS!
<SFX: BOOM>
I CAN'T SEE - THE LIGHTS ARE IN MY EYES!
SO HIGH!
<SFX: RUSHES IN>
<SFX: MMMM>

Final Chapter: The most important thing to me

WHERE'S THE BALL?
WILL THEY GET IT OUT?
<SFX: STRUGGLES>
<SFX: CATCH>
AUSTRALIA HAS IT!
appear
<SFX: THUD>

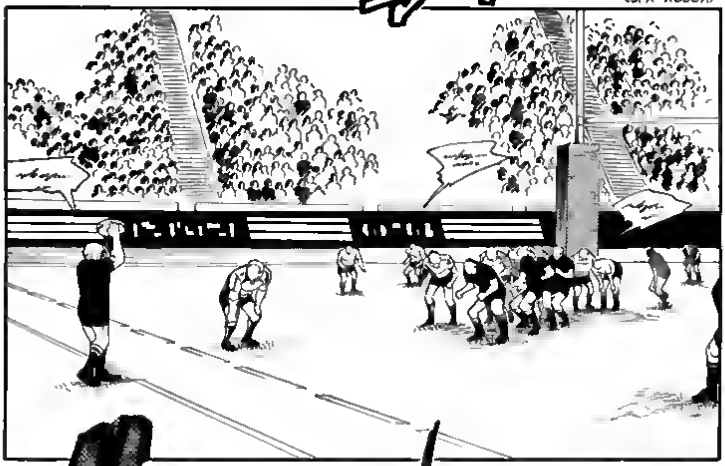
NEW ZEALAND'S FAST!
NEITHER SIDE IS WILLING TO BACK DOWN...
THAT LOOKS PAINFUL!
IT'S LIKE THE BALL ISN'T EVEN MOVING
<SFX RUMBLE>

THEY'RE SO EQUALLY-MATCHED THAT NEITHER SIDE IS ABLE TO SCORE
EACH TEAM IS JUST AS TOUGH AS THE OTHER.
AKIRA, DO YOU KNOW...

YES.
HOW THEY CAN THROUGH THIS?
THEY NEED TO KEEP CONTROL OF THE BALL AT ALL COSTS,
CATCH
GIRL

<SFX THUD>
AND PERFORM A KICK AT THE RIGHT MOMENT.
HE KICKED IT RIGHT AFTER RECEIVING IT?!
BUT FROM 22 METERS FROM THE OUTSIDE?
THERE'S NO WAY HE'LL BE ABLE TO-
<SFX BOUNCE>

HE'S JUST LIKE AKIRA!
THAT KICK WAS REALLY GOOD!
IT WAS GOOD!
<SFX WOOOH>



<SFX PAUSE>
4
IT'S JUST FIVE METERS!
JUST A LITTLE MORE, JUST A LITTLE MORE-!

WHAT HEIGHT!
HE'S GOT IT!
<SFX: RUMBLE>
<SFX: SLIP>
<SFX: THUD>
<SFX: SCATTER>
JUST A LITTLE MORE!
<SFX: RUMBLE>
GO ON!

OOOOOOH!
<SFX: BAM>
ワアア
アアア
<SFX: WOOOOOOH!>
アアア
ああ

<SFX: WOOOOH!>
MAN,
THAT MATCH SURE WENT BY FAST!
HEY
We're not at the theatre and I can't...
I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME!
ENCORE, ENCORE!
HUH?
OKAY! YOU HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS THERE, PLEASE FORM A LINE
COME HERE
HUH? BUT WHAT ABOUT THE HAND-SHAKING?
THE TEAM WILL BE SHAKING YOUR HANDS NOW!
I HAVE SOMETHING BETTER IN MIND
AKIRA
NO KIDDING!?!

MISS EBINA!
OVER HERE.
H-HEY, YOU TWO! HOLD ON!
GRAB
YOU CAN'T GO ONTO THE FIELD!
<SFX: WOW!>
AMAZING.
SHE REALLY DID COME.
ISN'T SHE ON THE JAPAN WOMEN'S TEAM!?!
EBINA!?!
? ?
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU
DON'T JUST STAND THERE COME HERE.
I DIDN'T EXPECT YUI'S SISTER TO BE THIS GREAT
I didn't know

Hi Dan!
DON'T ASK ME! I'M NERVOUS ABOUT THIS TOO!
EEEEEEK! YUI-SEMPAI IS THIS REALLY-

Hi.
10
10

Thank you for coming.

DO YOU STILL REMEMBER WHEN I TALKED TO YOU ABOUT MY DREAMS?
TO TAKE EVERYONE TO HANAZONO.
AND WHEN I FIRST MET YOU, I HAD ANOTHER DREAM

TO LET ALL THE RUGBY PLAYERS IN THE WORLD
SEE HOW GREAT YOUR KICKING IS.
AND TONIGHT, THAT WILL COME TRUE

I...
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THINKING THAT! I'M NOT READY!
G-G-GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF! T-T-THIS IS YOUR ONLY CHANCE!
GEEKKKK
WE'RE NERVOUS ABOUT THIS TOO...!
MY STOMACH'S

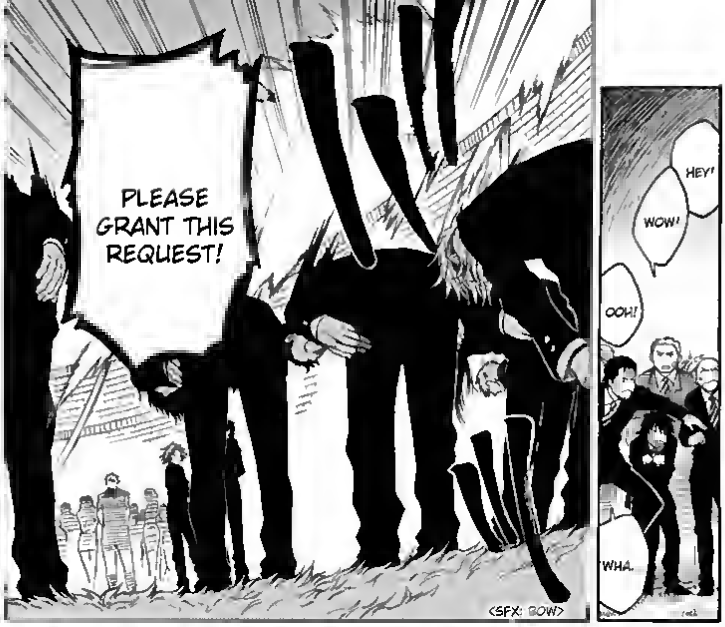
COULD YOU PLEASE KEEP TALKING ABOUT AKIRA?
YUI,
I'M ERINA YUI, THE WINGER FOR THE MEISETSU TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL RUGBY TEAM.
UMM... N-NICE TO MEET YOU.
IDIOT!
THERE'S A INTERPRETER HERE
B-BUT MY ENGLISH IS TERRIBLE...
HE WAS LIVING ON AN ISLAND
BEFORE HE STARTED HIGH SCHOOL.
SHOVE
A-AND THIS IS...
UJIKAWA AKIRA, A FRESHMAN AND THE KICKING FULL BACK OF OUR TEAM.

HE WAS THE ONLY KID ON THE WHOLE ISLAND
HE WAS ALL ALONE DURING ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL
HIS FATHER WAS A RUGBY PLAYER,
WITH NO ONE ELSE AROUND
HE PLAYED RUGBY ALL BY HIMSELF.
AND AKIRA WAS ALWAYS INSPIRED BY HIM WHEN HE PRACTICED

...DOES YOUR FATHER STILL PLAY RUGBY?

AH...
I KNEW HE WAS A RUGBY PLAYER
FROM SOME OLD PHOTOS AND VIDEOS OF HIM.
HE PASSED AWAY WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG.
HE... HE WAS REALLY AN AMAZING KICKER...

<SFX: GRAB>
AND THAT'S WHY... I WANT YOU TO EXPERIENCE IT YOURSELF!
I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT THE FIRST TIME I SAW IT...
HIS STRENGTH HIS CONTROL OF THE BALL...
A-AND THANKS TO ALL THE PRACTICING HE DID, ALL ALONE ON THAT ISLAND
AKIRA IS NOW AMAZINGLY TALENTED AT KICKING!
MY WISH IS FOR YOU TO RECEIVE A KICK
FROM UJIKAWA AKIRA!
PLEASE.
I BEG OF YOU!


PLEASE GRANT THIS REQUEST!
<SFX: BOW>
HEY!
WOW!
OOH!
WHA.

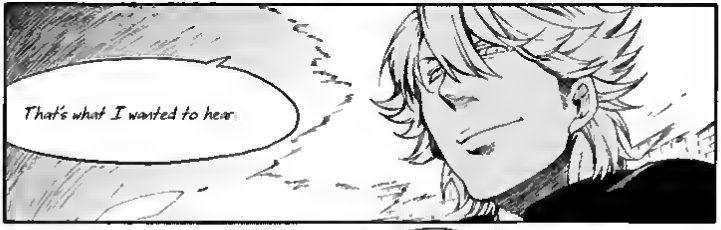
smile
Yes, and they're the first friends he ever made.
Are they his teammates?
10

"BUT BEFORE THAT, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?"
I'd be more than happy to.
10

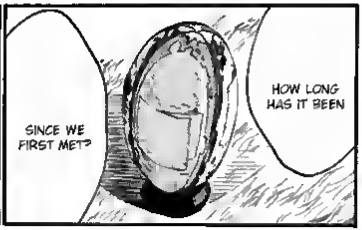
"YUI, WHAT DO YOU THINK
ABOUT AKIRA?"
WHAT
I THINK ABOUT HIM—
"WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO DO SO MUCH FOR HIM?"
THE REASON WHY I DID
ALL OF THIS IS BECAUSE...

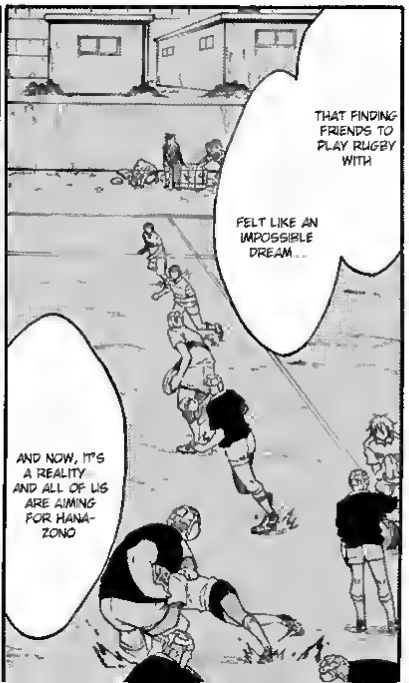
AKIRA IS MY CLOSEST
AND DEAREST FRIEND!

YUI
SEMPAI


That's what I wanted to hear.

At 30 metres?
40 metres?
Okay, let's begin.
...50 metres.





成瀬芳貴先生に励ましのお便りを出そう!!
あて先
〒151-8544
スクウェア・エニックス
ガンガンONLINE編集部「成瀬芳貴先生」係

IF YOU GIVE UP ON YOUR DREAMS
THEN THEY'LL NEVER COME TRUE.
<SFX: DASH>
WITH YOU
AND EVERYONE ELSE...

LET'S MAKE IT TO HANAZONO!
<SFX: KICK>

ドシ
ドシ
<SFX: SWOOSH>
<SFX: THUD>
<SFX: CROWD CHATTER>
!?

AKIRA
Great kick!
<SFX. SMILE>
Okay, now it's my turn!
Here, try this!
HUH?
YES!
<SFX. DROP>

<SFX KICK>
DAD...

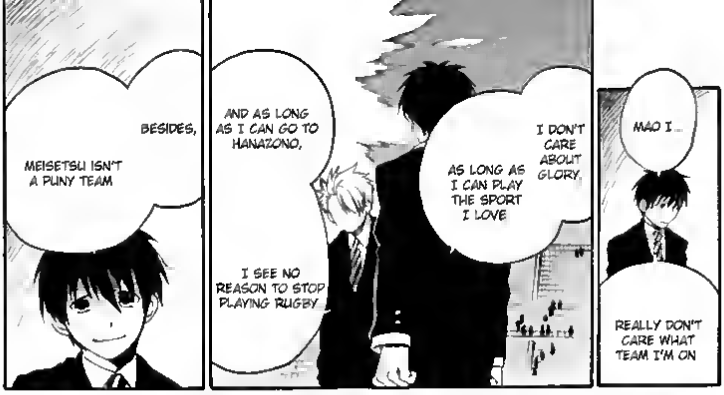
SHAKE
CAN
THUD
SWOOSH
Sure! Get ready!
CAN WE DO IT AGAIN?
<SFX: THUD>
AKIRA
IS HE REALLY ONLY A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT?
L-LOOK AT THAT KICK!
SO HIGH!
AMAZ-ING!
<SFX: CROWD TALKING>

MAO.
HEY,
YOU WERE AMAZING, YU!!
BUT...
YOU USED TO BE SO PASSIONATE ABOUT RUGBY.
I WANT TO HAVE A SERIOUS TALK WITH YOU
LIKE, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT RIGHT NOW?
WELL, YOU CAN...
I-I WANT TO BE STRONG JUST LIKE YOU!
Hehe
YOU WORRIED ABOUT GETTING A CONCUSSION?
Thank goodness!
I WISH I WASN'T SO SCARED OF TACKLING!
NOW, OF COURSE BOTH OF YOU
WERE THE BEST PLAYERS AT YOUR OLD SCHOOL.
I'M SURE YOU COULD BE AN EVEN BETTER PLAYER THAN ME!
IF YOU TAKE RUGBY MORE SERIOUSLY

SOUMA HIGH IS NOT THE PLACE FOR YOU TWO
BUT WE CAN ONLY ACCEPT THE VERY BEST HERE
AND WE'RE SURE THE TWO OF YOU WILL MAKE FINE RIVALS TO SOUMA SOMEDAY
I'M SURE THERE'S OTHER SCHOOLS THAT WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE YOU
NO... WAY...
HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THAT OKEYA KID?
SEEMS LIKE HE DIDN'T GET THE RECOMMENDATION.
HE REALLY DID HIS BEST WITH RUGBY TRAINING TOO...
HOW AWFUL...
AWFUL, AWFUL...

I WANTED TO PLAY RUGBY
FOR A WELL-KNOWN SCHOOL, NO MATTER WHAT IT TOOK!
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU HAVE ANY FUTURE PLAYING RUGBY
WITH A SMALL AND WEAK TEAM? ADMIT IT, THIS IS STUPID.
NOT TO MENTION,

AND THERE'S NO WAY
WE COULD EVER WIN WITH A PUNY CLUB LIKE THIS
IT WAS MY DREAM THAT
WE'D BOTH GET INTO SOUMA!
WHAT'S THE POINT? I'VE NEVER FELT
SO PATHETIC IN MY LIFE.


MAO I...
REALLY DON'T CARE WHAT TEAM I'M ON
I DON'T CARE ABOUT GLORY,
AS LONG AS I CAN PLAY THE SPORT I LOVE
AND AS LONG AS I CAN GO TO HANAZONO,
I SEE NO REASON TO STOP PLAYING RUGBY
BESIDES,
MEISETSU ISN'T A PUNY TEAM

IT'S MY FAULT
FOR SAYING THAT WE COULD HAVE GOT INTO SOUMA
AND I WON'T MIND IF YOU HATE ME FOR THAT

BUT, PLEASE,
DON'T HATE RUGBY FOR THAT
I HOPE THAT YOU WON'T ABANDON RUGBY BECAUSE,
AFTER ALL, MAO,

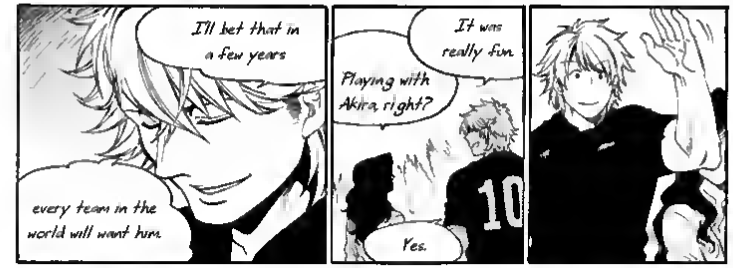
YOU'RE REALLY A GREAT PLAYER.
I KNOW.
MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE ABOUT HOW SKILLFUL YOU ARE!
SO PLEASE
YOU'RE SO STUPID,
AREN'T YOU?
YOU IDIOT
YOU WERE SO FIXATED
YOUR DREAM...

Haa
Haa
Haa
Haa
Haa
hug
push
EH?
GO!
?
Come here.
Akira
Always remember

You have friends who believe in you from the bottom of their hearts.
A team that's behind you all the way
that you aren't alone anymore.
You see,
Be sure to cherish this bond you have with them, okay?
Rugby is a sport that depends on friendship

YES I WILL
Grow stronger, Akira
and be
able to support everyone.
I'M SURE THAT IF AKIRA'S FATHER WAS STILL ALIVE,
HE WOULD BE HAPPY TOO
I think I could cry
THEY REALLY LOOK LIKE FATHER AND SON

BACK THEN, I WAS IN HOSPITAL
HANA-ZONO?
YES
AYU, WHEN YOU GROW UP,
BE SURE TO GO TO HANAZONO
AND WASN'T ABLE TO TO PLAY WITH MY TEAMMATES.
AYU?
sniff
sniff


I'll bet that in a few years
every team in the world will want him.
It was really fun.
Playing with Akira, right?
Yes.
10

You can never tell when it comes to sports.
Because of that uncertainty, there is always a chance.
As long as they continue chasing that dream,
Do you know what Hanazono is?
It's where Japan holds its national high school rugby tournament, isn't it?
To get there is their dream.
Do you think they can do it?

I'm sure that
it will come true.
■END■
Thank you very much for reading! Please do look forward to the next work of Natsuki Yoshiki-sensei!